



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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May 1, 2008

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

VIA FAX: (202) 228-3954

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Recently, Senator Hillary Clinton, Senator John McCain and other legislators have proposed suspending the 18.3 cent federal gas tax between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We urge you to oppose this idea should it be considered in Congress.

As you know, the Highway Trust Fund is already in danger of becoming insolvent prior to the expiration of the current surface transportation authorization (SAFETEA-LU). Any suspension of the federal gas tax would accelerate this insolvency and jeopardize important highway and transit projects that are already underway. It has been estimated that the proposal would cost the state of California almost \$665 million in gas tax revenues and eliminate over 20,000 jobs. To starve states of vital assistance during the summer months when our transportation networks are in such high demand is a dangerous precedent that would ultimately have little impact on consumers.

We hope you and your colleagues will ignore such sound-bite answers to complicated questions and work together on a long-term solution that will assist in maintaining the nation's transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

George Dondero
Executive Director

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Also sent to: Senator Boxer + Congressman Farr

196-1